

2. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) ~~a TACI first isolated protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises~~ comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 2-166 of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (~~c~~) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (~~d~~) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:1;wherein said ~~polypeptides and fragments of (i)(a), (b)(c) and said polypeptides of (i)(d)~~ bind TACI-L SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) ~~a TACI-L second isolated protein, wherein said TACI-L protein comprises~~ comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (~~d~~) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or
 - (~~e~~) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:3;wherein said ~~polypeptides and fragments of (ii)(d) and said polypeptides of (ii)(e) (a), (b) and (c)~~ bind TACI SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and

- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii);
such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) is identified.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ proteins of (ii) is labeled with a detectable moiety.
17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein both the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and (ii) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein are soluble.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein both the soluble ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the soluble ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) are labeled with a detectable moiety.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the test compound is an antibody.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the composition is formed by adding the test compound to ~~a composition comprising the TACI~~ the protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii).
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises determining a dissociation constant of the interaction of the protein of (i) ~~TACI~~ with the protein of (ii) ~~TACI-L~~.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises assessing activation of the protein of (i) ~~TACI~~ in a cell.
24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein assessing activation of the protein of (i) ~~TACI~~ in a cell is measured by calcium influx.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the protein of (ii) TACI-L is a polypeptide comprising amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4 or a polypeptide comprising amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4, ~~is soluble extracellular TACI-L.~~

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the polypeptide comprising amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4 or the polypeptide comprising amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~soluble extracellular TACI-L~~ further comprises a leucine zipper domain.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) is a polypeptide comprising amino acids 2-166 of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~is soluble extracellular TACI.~~

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the polypeptide comprising amino acids 2-166 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~the soluble extracellular~~ further comprises a Fc domain. ~~TACI is TACI-Fc.~~

29. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) ~~a TACI~~ an isolated protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 2-166 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (~~cb~~) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; wherein said fragments binds SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI-L~~;
 - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (iii) a ~~the~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the ~~TACI protein~~ protein if (i) and the protein of (ii) the TACI-L protein;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the protein of (i) and the protein of (ii) ~~TACI protein and the TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

30. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) ~~TACI-L~~ an isolated protein, wherein said TACI-L protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; ~~and~~
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (d) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragments binds TACI-L SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) ~~the~~ a test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the protein of (i) ~~TACI protein and the TACI-L protein~~ protein of (ii);

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the protein of (i) ~~TACI protein and the protein of (ii)~~ TACI-L protein is identified.

31. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI-L~~ the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI~~ the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) ~~the~~ a test compound; and

- b. assaying for the level of interaction of ~~the TACI protein- the fragment of (i) and the TACI-L protein the fragment of (ii);~~

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the fragment of (i) the TACI protein and the fragment of (ii) the TACI-L protein is identified.

32. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
(i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
(ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
(iii) a ~~the~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of (i) TACI protein and the polypeptide of (ii) TACI-L protein;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the protein of (i) TACI protein and the protein of (ii) TACI-L protein is identified.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 comprises ~~is~~ amino acids 24-166 of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 comprises ~~is~~ amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4.

35. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide comprising amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4 or the polypeptide comprising amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4 further comprises a Fc domain.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 comprises amino acids 123-285 of SEQ ID NO:4.

37. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibody is human.

38. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibody comprises a Fab fragment.

39. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibody comprises a F(ab')₂ fragment.